

*THANKS TO GUANLIN LI, MICHAEL CORTEZ, HEND  
ALRASHEED, RONG JIN, HAYRIYE GULBUDAK, RACHEL  
WHITAKER, MARK YOUNG, AND CHARLES WIGINGTON*

# **VIRAL INFECTION MODES AND INVASION FITNESS ACROSS A CONTINUUM FROM LYSIS TO LATENCY**

Dr. Joshua S. Weitz

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Courtesy Professor, School of Physics & ECE

&

Founding Director, Ph.D. in Quantitative Biosciences

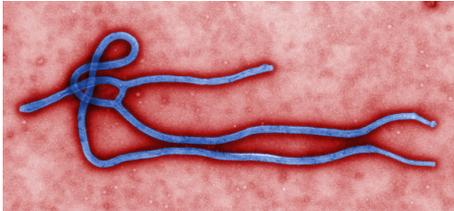
Georgia Institute of Technology

<http://ecothery.biology.gatech.edu>

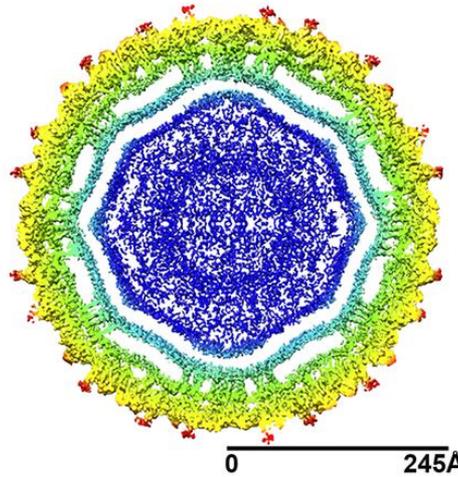
[jsweitz@gatech.edu](mailto:jsweitz@gatech.edu)



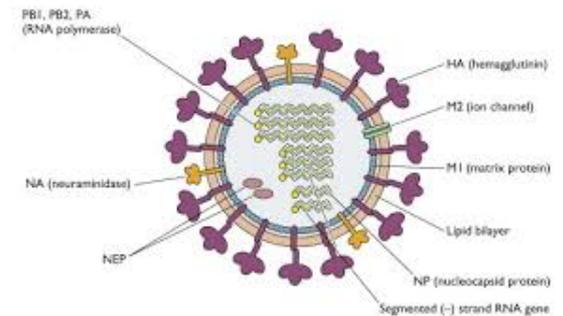
# What We Talk About When We Talk About Viruses



Ebola Virus  
Image source: CDC



Zika virus core  
Sirohi et al. Science, 2016



Influenza virus  
virology.ws



John Moore, Getty Images  
(Nature, 2014)



Source: CNN



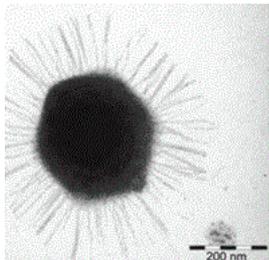
Source: CDC

# But viruses infect organisms across the diversity of life

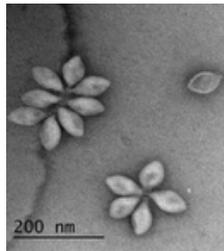
Humans	↔	HIV, Ebola, Rhinovirus, ...
Mammals	↔	Lentivirus, ...
Birds	↔	Avian influenza, ...
Insects	↔	Baculovirus, ...
Plants	↔	Tobacco mosaic virus, ...

# But viruses infect organisms across the diversity of life, including microbes

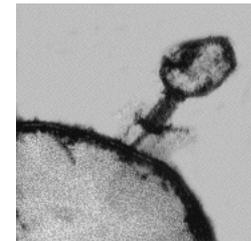
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Plants	↔	Tobacco mosaic virus, ...
Amoeba	↔	Giant mimiviruses
Archaea	↔	Sulfolobus spindle viruses
Bacteria	↔	Bacteriophages (lambda, T4, ...)



Mimivirus – Raoult et al. CID 2007

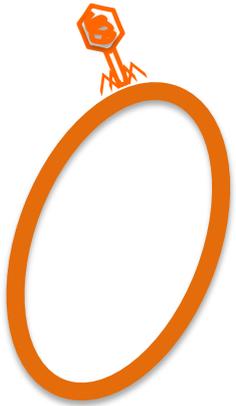


SSV – Quemin et al. J. Vir. 2015

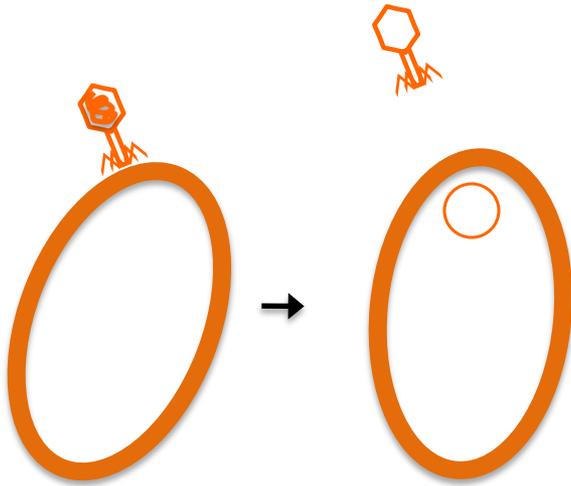


T4 – mbio.ncsu.edu

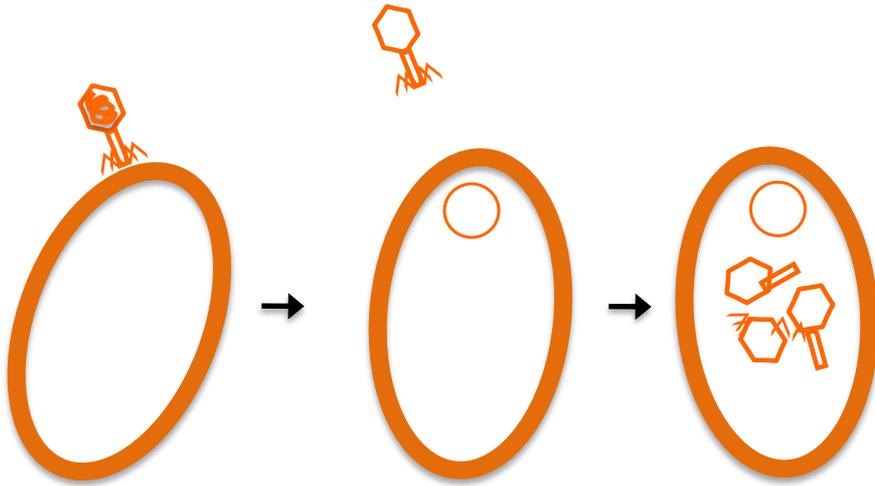
# The life of a bacterial virus (phage)



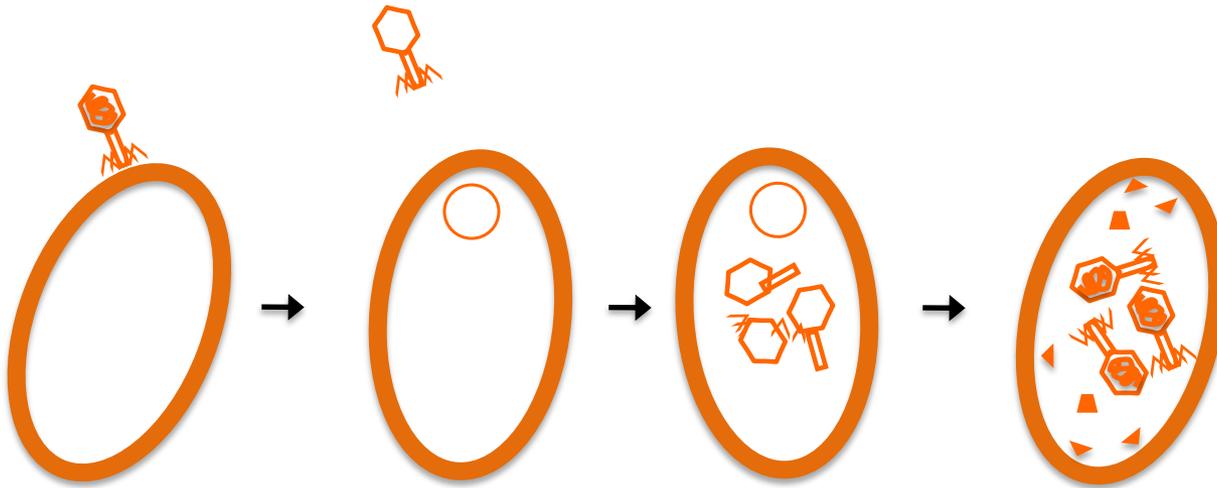
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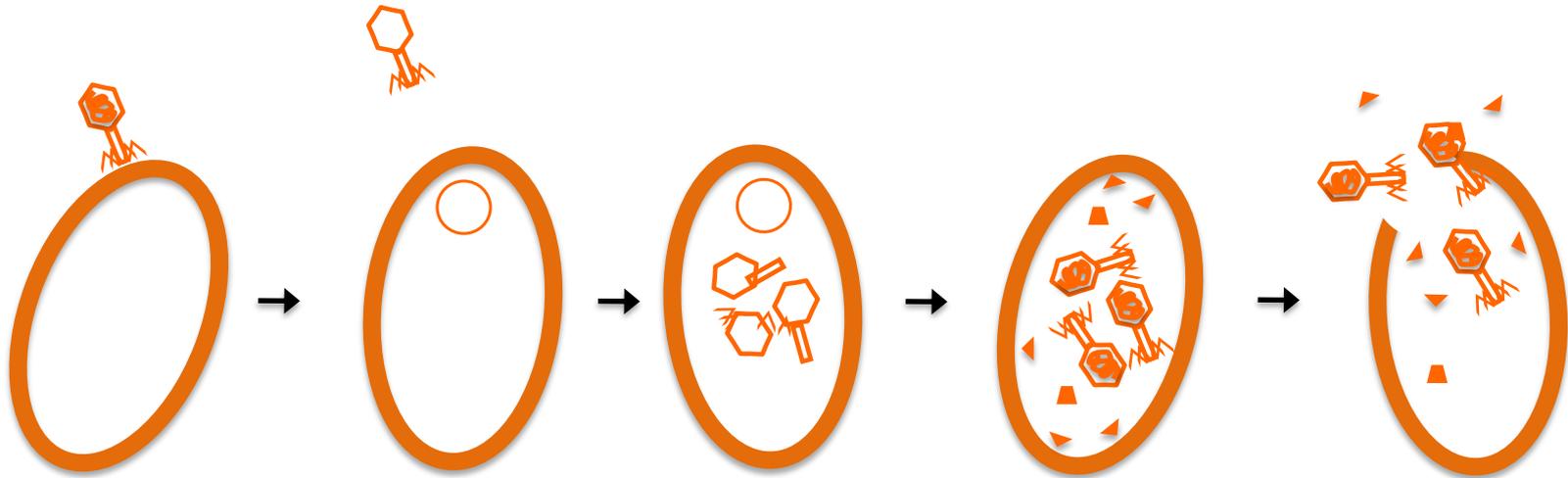
# The life of a bacterial virus (phage)



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# The life of a bacterial virus (phage)



# A “predator-prey” model is the basis for studies of **virus-microbe** population dynamics

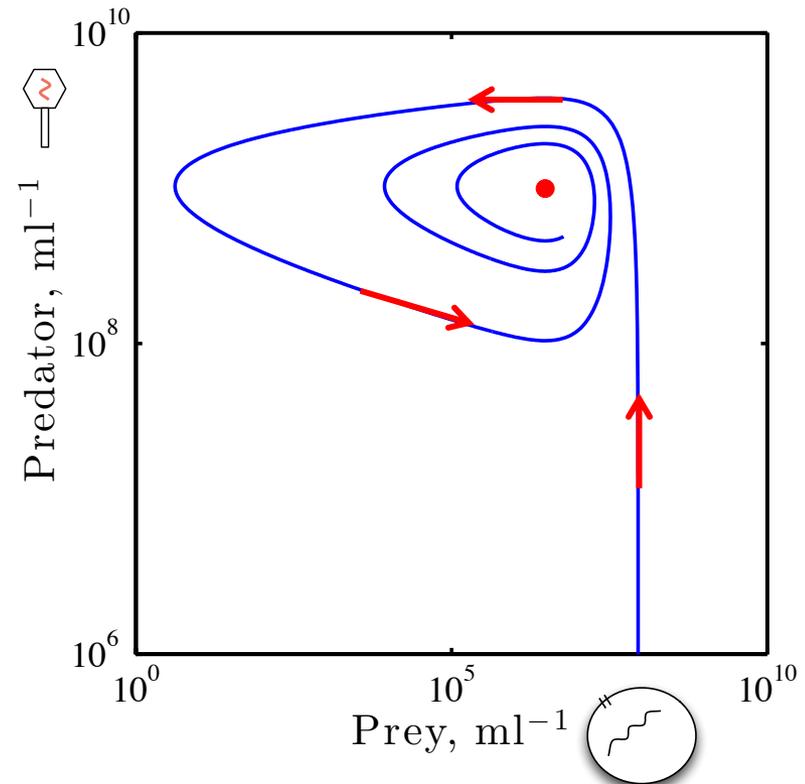
## Dynamic model

$$\begin{array}{l}
 \text{media inflow} \quad \text{nutrient consumption} \quad \text{outflow} \\
 \frac{dR}{dt} = \underbrace{\omega R_0}_{\text{media inflow}} - \underbrace{f(R)N}_{\text{nutrient consumption}} - \underbrace{\omega R}_{\text{outflow}} \\
 \text{cell division} \quad \text{infection and lysis} \quad \text{outflow} \\
 \frac{dN}{dt} = \underbrace{\epsilon f(R)N}_{\text{cell division}} - \underbrace{\phi NV}_{\text{infection and lysis}} - \underbrace{\omega N}_{\text{outflow}} \\
 \text{lysis} \quad \text{infection} \quad \text{outflow} \\
 \frac{dV}{dt} = \underbrace{\beta \phi NV}_{\text{lysis}} - \underbrace{\phi NV}_{\text{infection}} - \underbrace{\omega V}_{\text{outflow}}
 \end{array}$$

### Interactions:

Resource inflow/outflow  
 Host growth and outflow  
 Viral lysis and outflow

Result: “Lotka-Volterra” like predator-prey dynamics



*Counter-clockwise cycles*

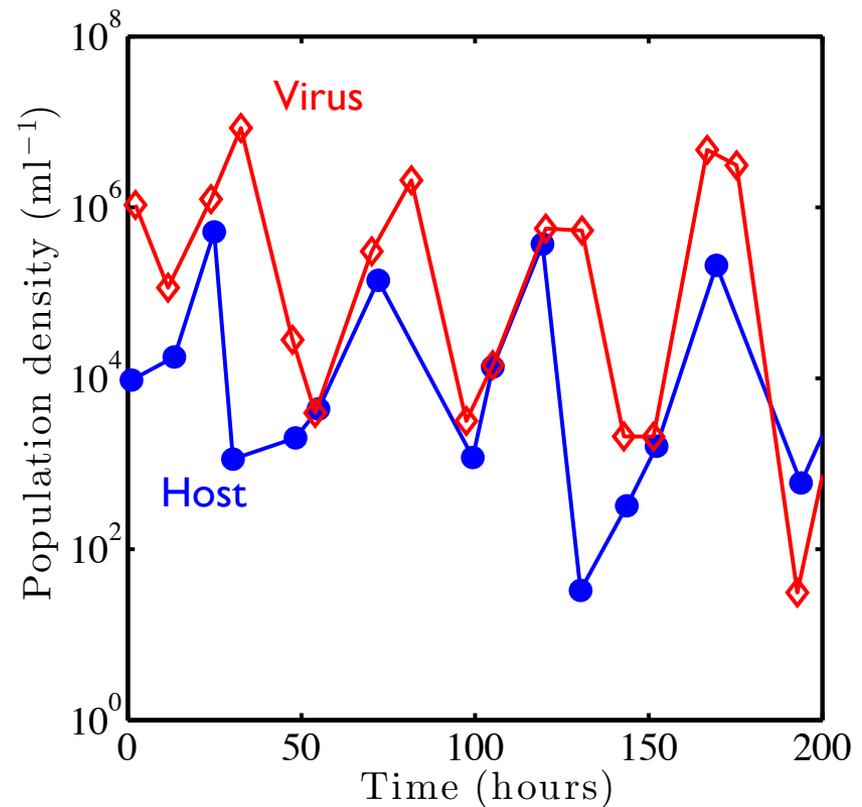
# The same types of cycles can be observed in virus-host population dynamics (in the lab)

“Predator-prey” like cycles between phage T4 and *E. coli* B

Data: Bohannan & Lenski, Ecology (1997)

## Take-home message:

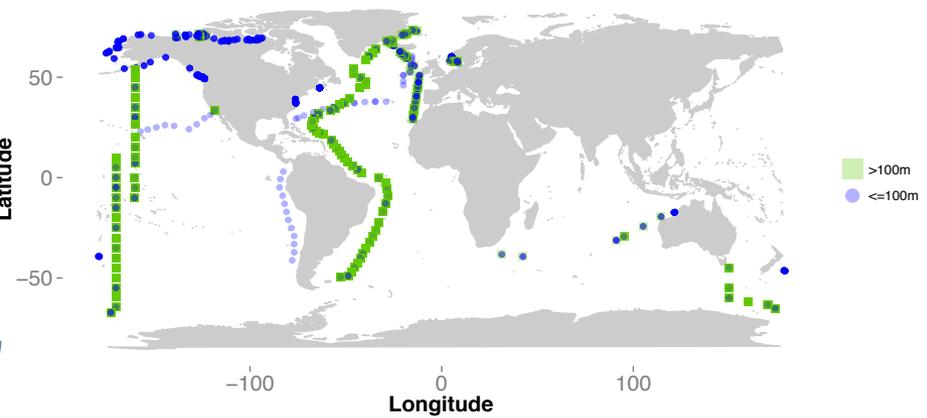
Original models of viral-host dynamics presuppose a “simple” one virus, one host relationship.



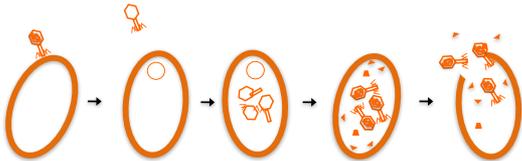
Further analysis of this and other cases in:  
Weitz, Quantitative Viral Ecology: Dynamics of Viruses and Their Microbial Hosts, Princeton University Press, 2015.

# The Problem of Scales in Quantitative Viral Ecology:

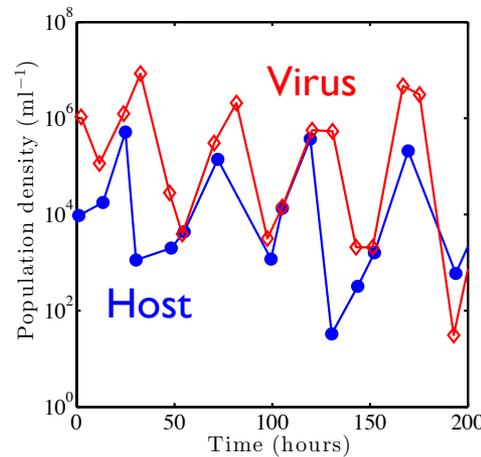
## Linking Mechanism to Pattern



Which scale-up to massive ecosystem effects when integrated over the global oceans.



Virus-host interactions modify the fate of cells on time scales similar to division times...



Infection and lysis leads to oscillatory dynamics at the population scale...

### Quantitative Viral Ecology

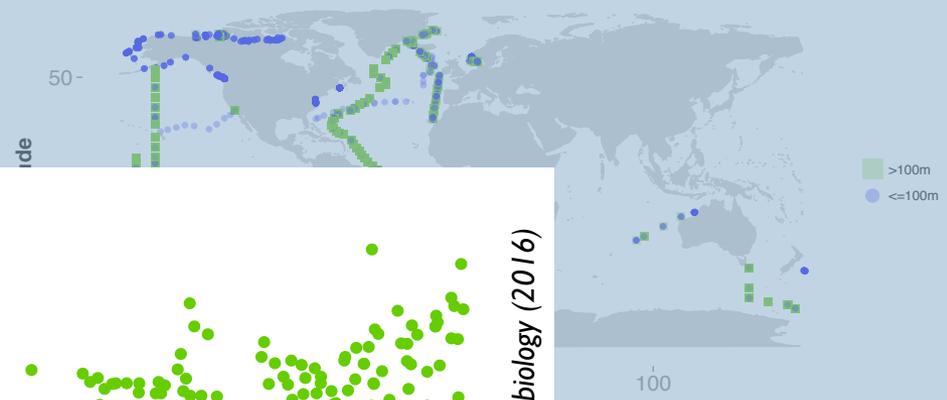
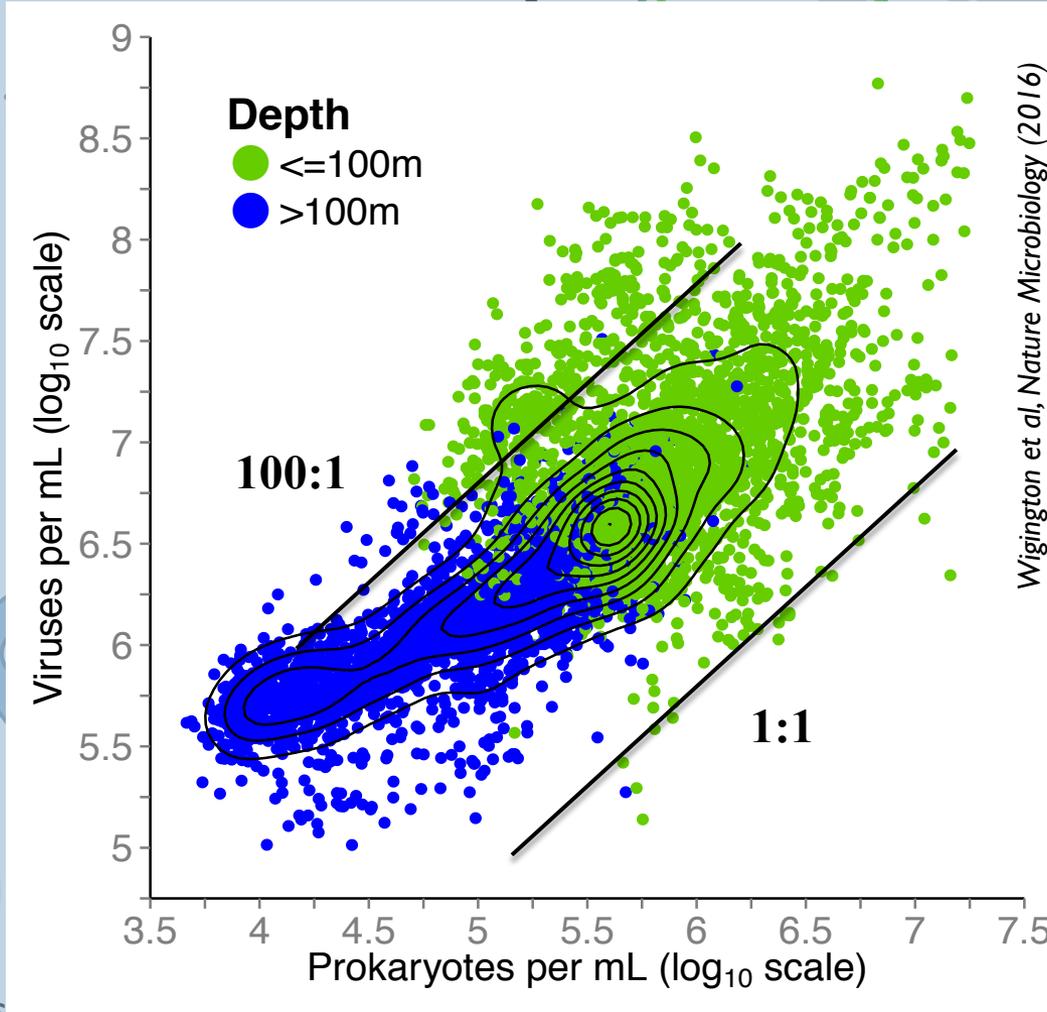
DYNAMICS OF VIRUSES AND THEIR MICROBIAL HOSTS

Joshua S. Weitz

# The Problem of Scales in Quantitative Viral Ecology:

Linking Mechanisms

Virus-host interactions modify the fate of cells on time scales similar to division times...



...e-up to massive effects when integrated global oceans.

...ds to at the

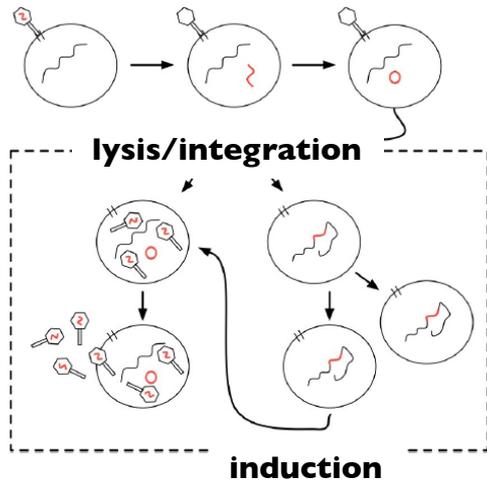
## Quantitative Viral Ecology

DYNAMICS OF VIRUSES AND THEIR MICROBIAL HOSTS

Joshua S. Weitz

But do viruses of microbes do more than  
kill or prepare to kill?

# Lysogeny – ‘Lessons from a Simple System’



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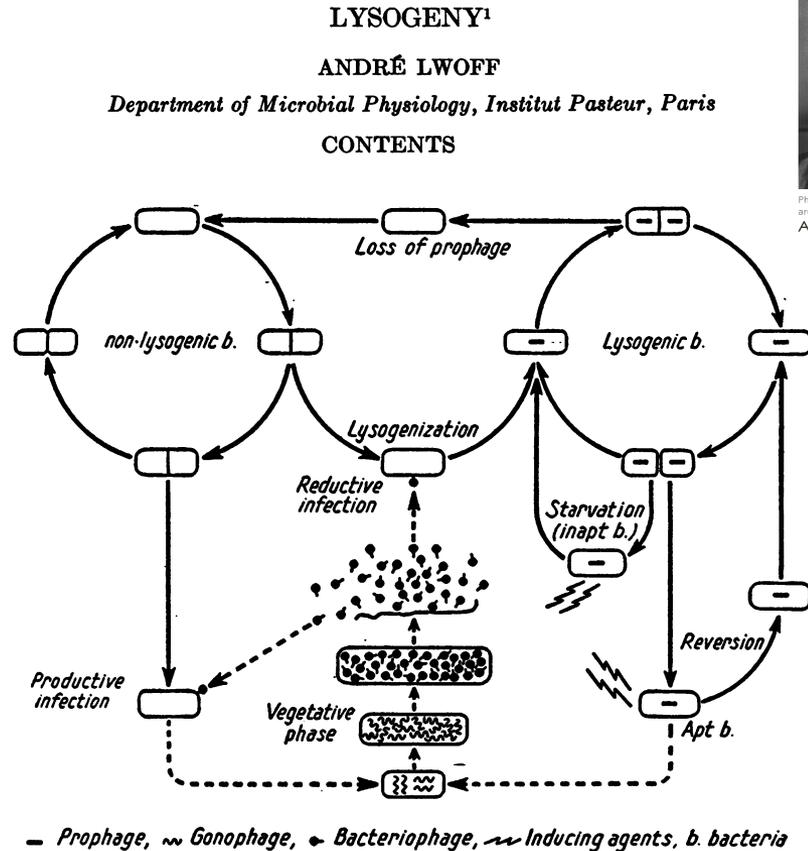
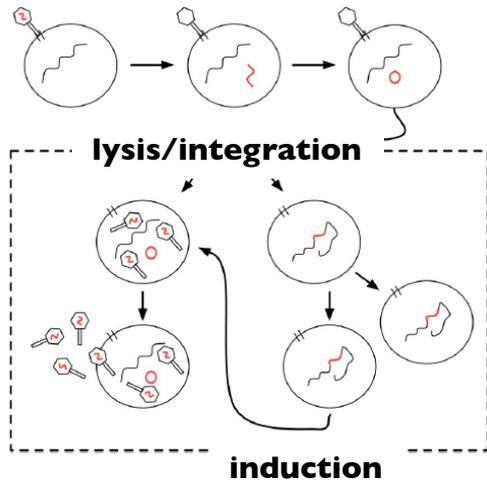
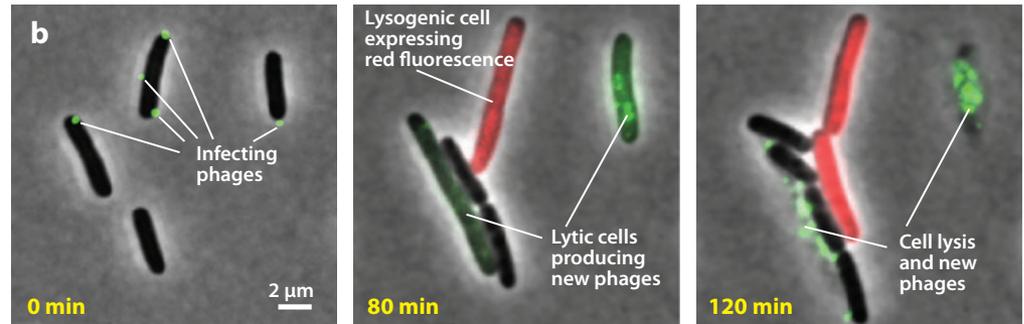
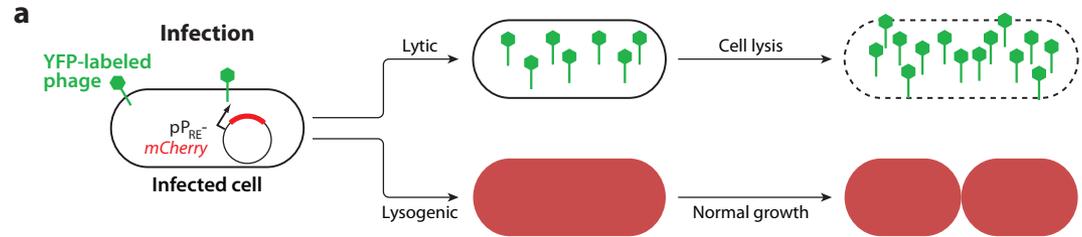
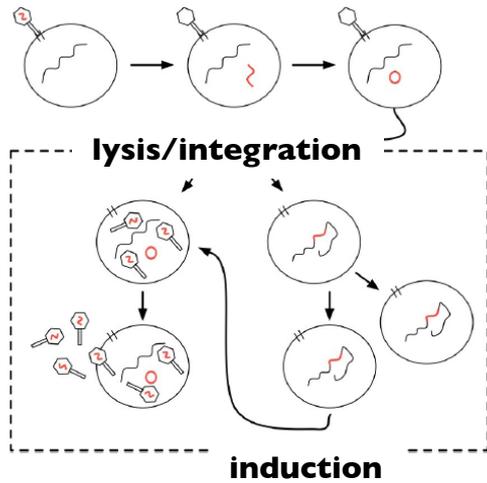


Photo from the Nobel Foundation archive.  
 André Lwoff

FIG. 1. General view of lysogeny

# Lysogeny – ‘Lessons from a Simple System’



Golding et al. Ann Rev. Biophys. 2011  
&  
Ptashe, A Genetic Switch: Phage Lambda Revisited, 2004.

# Why Be Temperate?

## A 40+ year-old question

18

THEORETICAL POPULATION BIOLOGY 26, 93–117 (1984)

### The Population Biology of Bacterial Viruses: Why Be Temperate

FRANK M. STEWART AND BRUCE R. LEVIN

*Department of Mathematics, Brown University,  
Providence, Rhode Island 02912, and  
Department of Zoology, University of Massachusetts,  
Amherst, Massachusetts 01003*

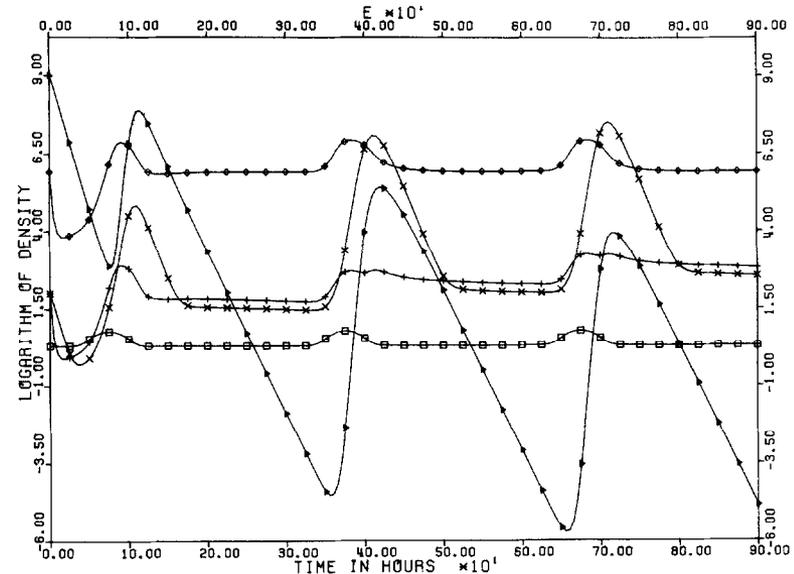
Received May 23, 1983

$$\dot{r} = \rho(C - r) - e\psi(r)(L + (1 - \alpha_S)S),$$

$$\dot{L} = \psi(r)L + \lambda\delta_T ST - (\rho + \xi + \tau)L,$$

$$\dot{S} = (1 - \alpha_S)\psi(r)S - \delta_T ST + \tau L - \rho S,$$

$$\dot{T} = \xi\beta_T L + \beta_T(1 - \lambda)\delta_T ST - \delta_T LT - \rho T.$$



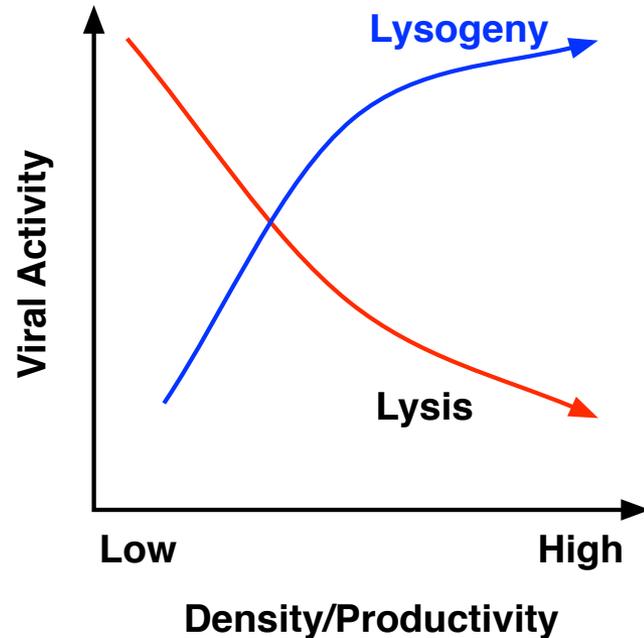
### Feast or Famine Hypothesis

**Premise:** temperate phage do better when few hosts are available and extracellular mortality rate are high.

**Caveat:** “In spite of the intuitive appeal of this low density hypothesis, we are unable to obtain solutions consistent with it using the model presented here.”

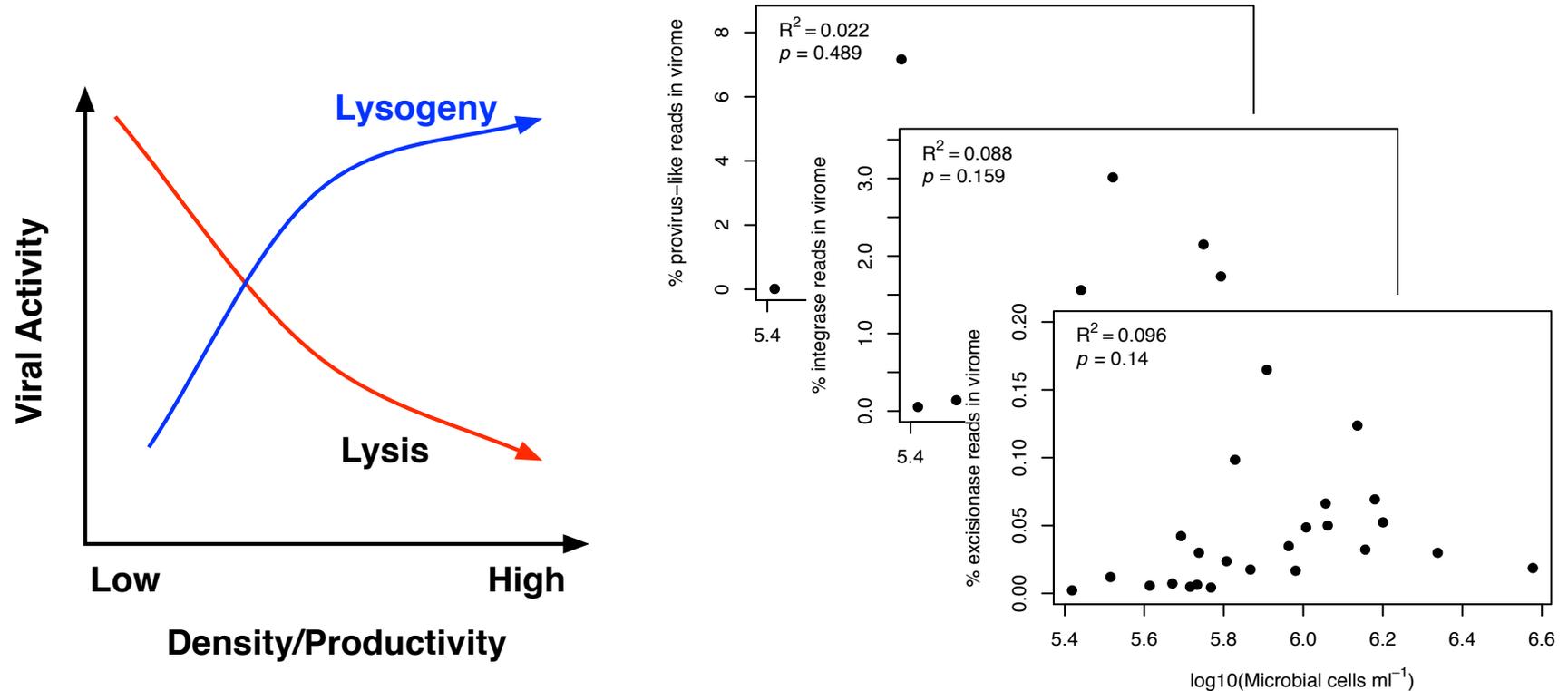


# An Alternative Hypothesis: “Piggyback-the-Winner”



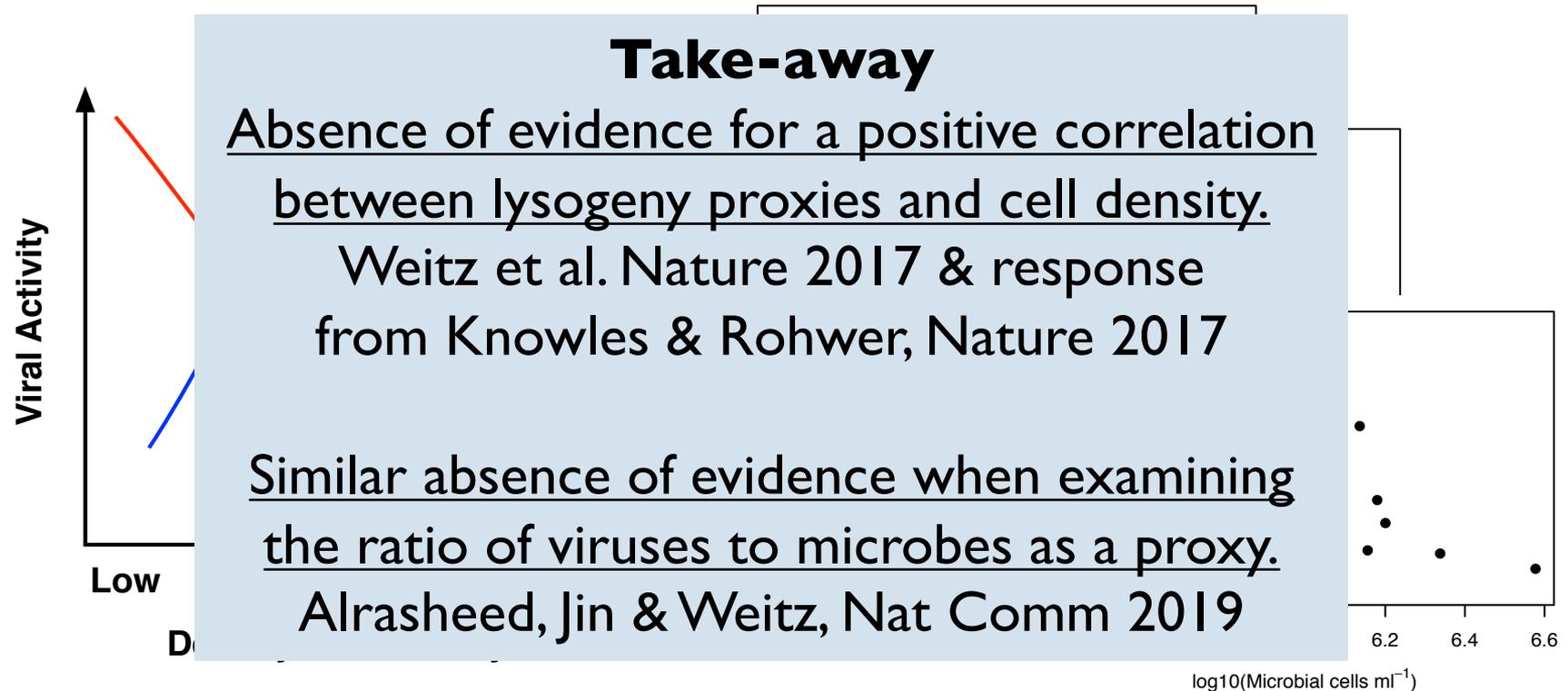
**Piggyback-the-winner** – lysogeny is positively correlated with increases in host density and productivity.

# Piggyback-the-Winner: Re-examining the metagenomics evidence



**Piggyback-the-winner** – lysogeny is positively correlated with increases in host density and productivity.

# Piggyback-the-Winner: Re-examining the metagenomics evidence



**Piggyback-the-winner** – lysogeny is positively correlated with increases in host density and productivity.

Knowles et al. Nature 2016

What environmental conditions should favor lysogeny rather than lysis?

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On old lesson:

*A bird in the hand is worth two in the bush.*

What environmental conditions should favor lysogeny rather than lysis?

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A new puzzle:

*A virus in the cell is worth **N** in the bloom.*

What environmental conditions should favor lysogeny rather than lysis?

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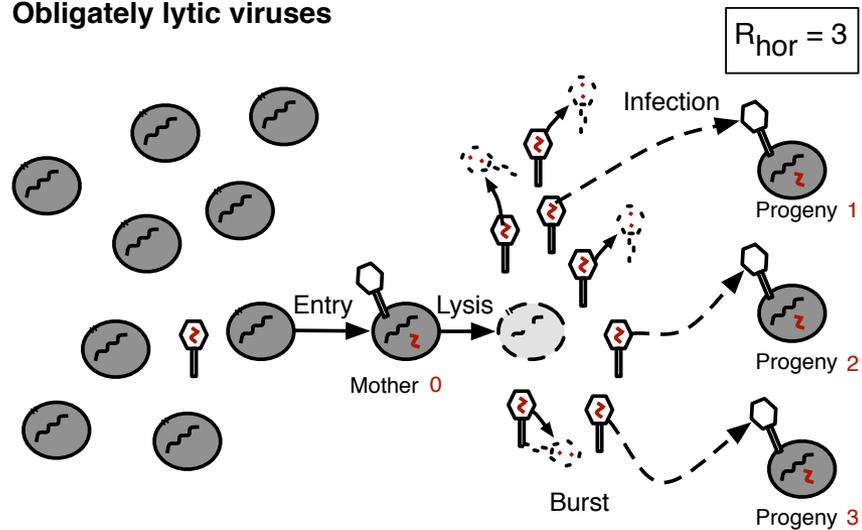
A new puzzle:

*A virus in the cell is worth **N** in the bloom.*

But, what is **N**?

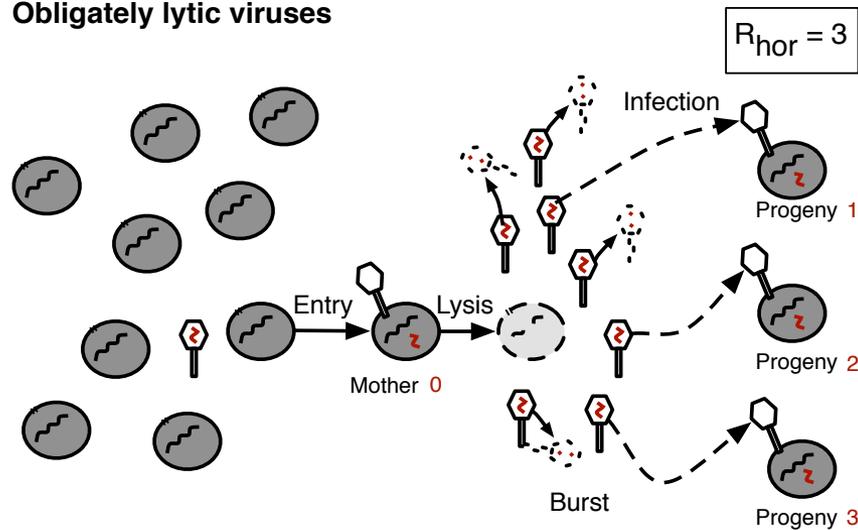
# Viral proliferation at the individual level for *lytic strategies*

## Obligately lytic viruses

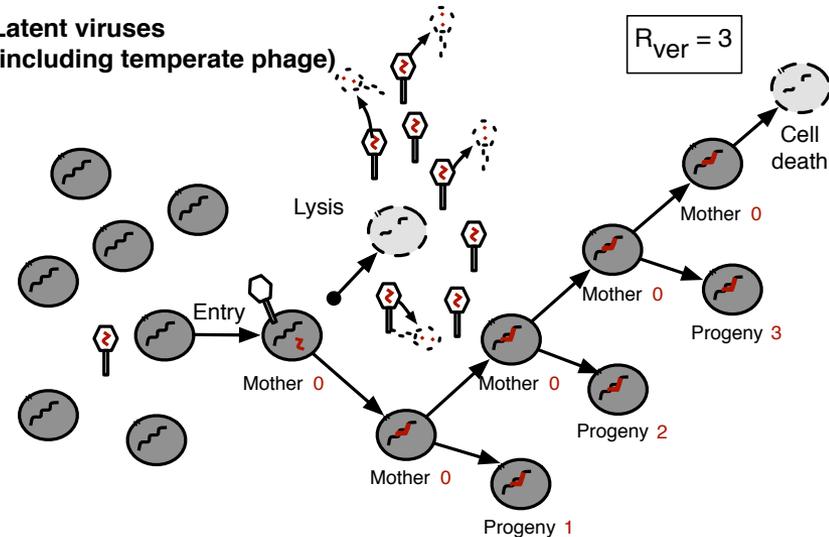


# Viral proliferation at the individual level for *lytic strategies* and *latent strategies*

Obligately lytic viruses

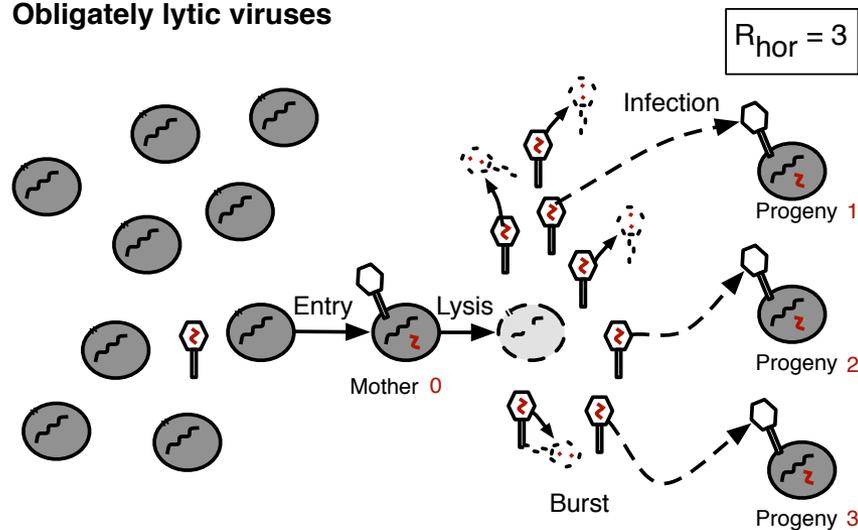


Latent viruses  
(including temperate phage)

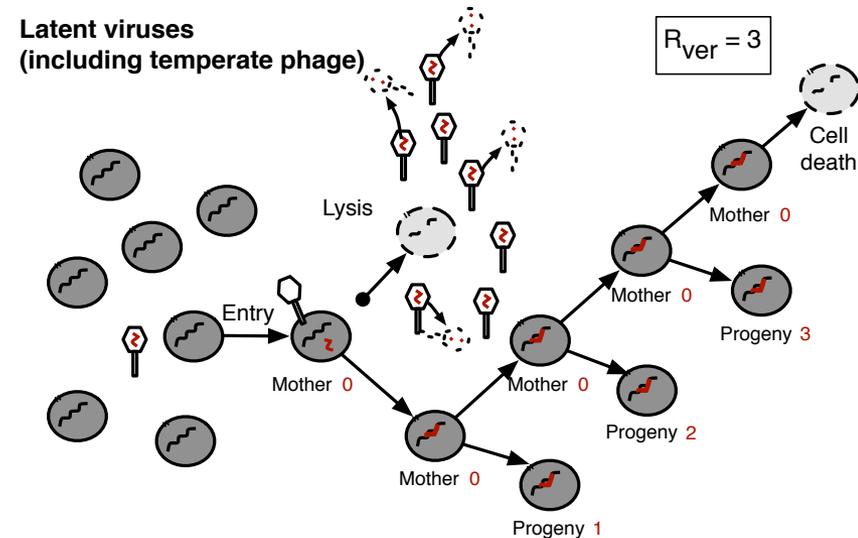


# Viral proliferation at the individual level for *lytic strategies* and *latent strategies*

Obligately lytic viruses



Latent viruses (including temperate phage)

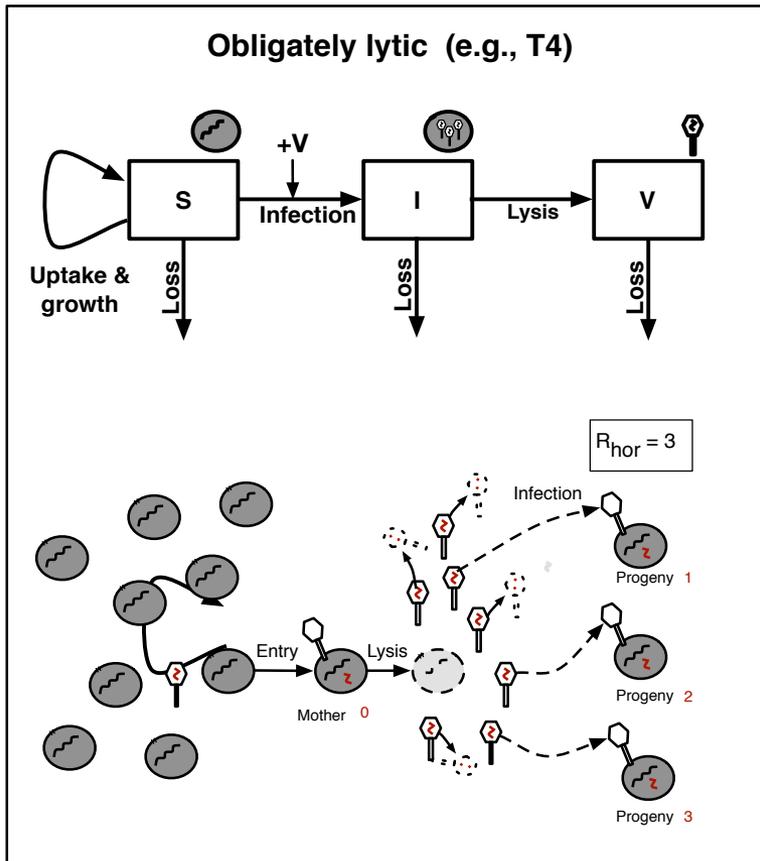


**Two vastly different strategies can lead to the same 'fitness' at the individual level.**

**How does this depend on cell densities?**

# Population dynamics of lytic viruses

Population perspective



Individual perspective

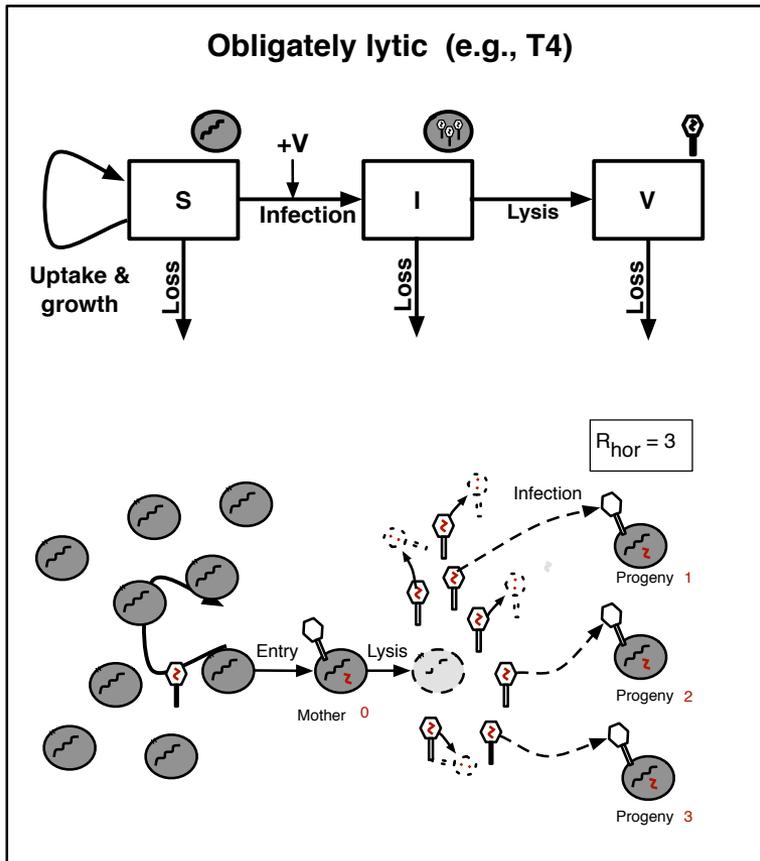
$$\frac{dS}{dt} = \overbrace{bS(1 - N/K)}^{\text{logistic growth}} - \overbrace{\phi SV}^{\text{infection}} - \overbrace{dS}^{\text{cell death}}$$

$$\frac{dI}{dt} = \overbrace{\phi SV}^{\text{infection}} - \overbrace{\eta I}^{\text{lysis}} - \overbrace{d'I}^{\text{cell death}}$$

$$\frac{dV}{dt} = \overbrace{\beta \eta I}^{\text{lysis}} - \overbrace{\phi SV}^{\text{infection}} - \overbrace{mV}^{\text{viral decay}}$$

# Population dynamics of lytic viruses

Population perspective



Individual perspective

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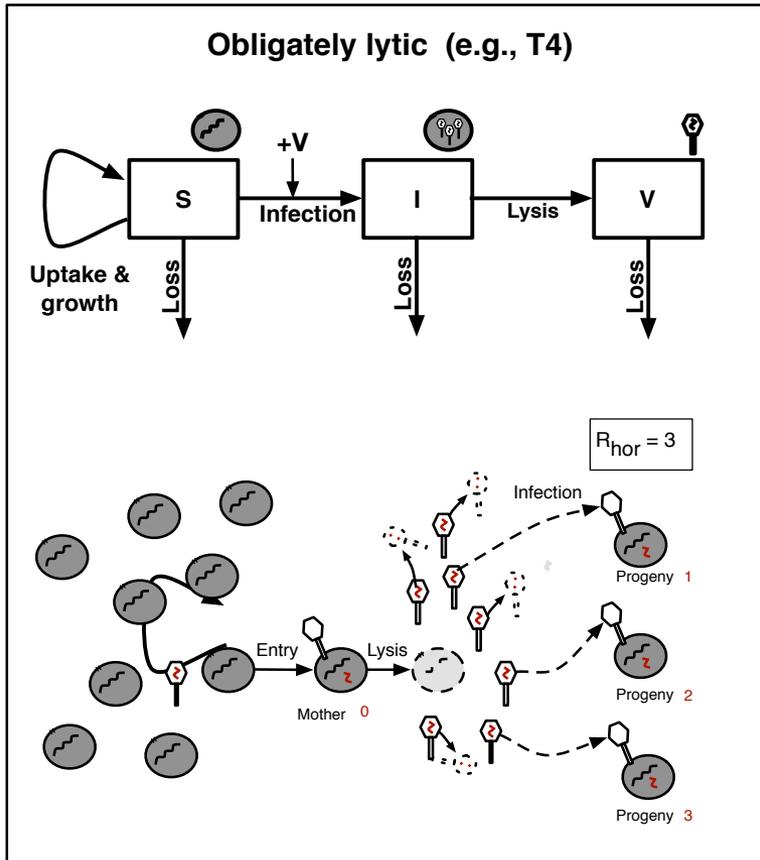
**Viruses increase in population, within infected cells given exclusively horizontal transmission when**

$$\mathcal{R}_{hor} = \beta \left( \frac{\phi S^*}{\phi S^* + m} \right) \left( \frac{\eta}{\eta + d'} \right)$$

is greater than 1

# Population dynamics of lytic viruses

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Individual perspective

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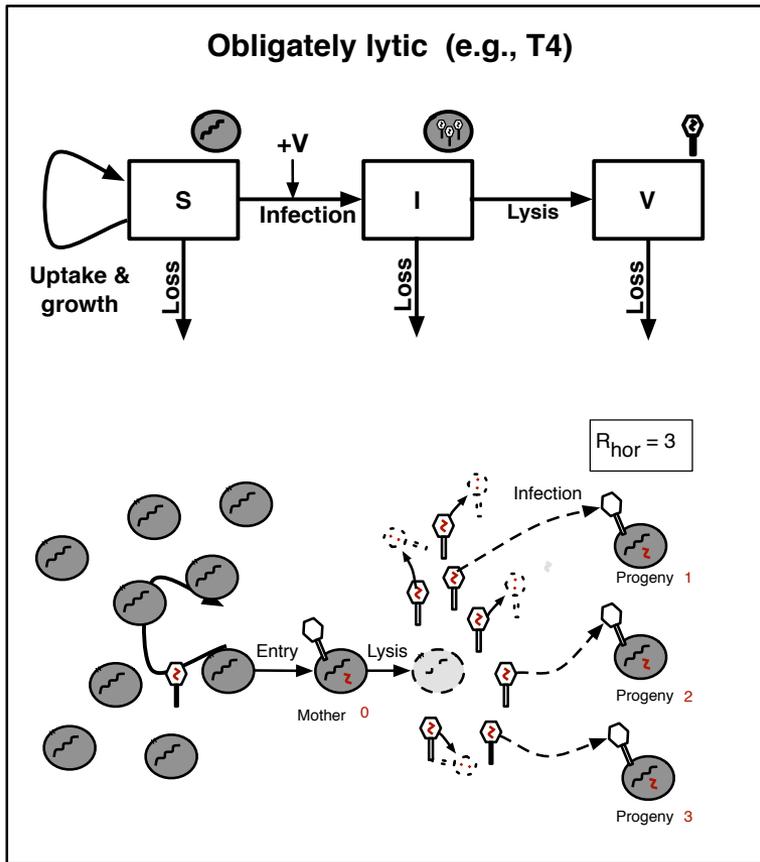
**Viruses increase in population, within infected cells given exclusively horizontal transmission when**

$$R_{hor} = \text{Burst size} \left( \begin{array}{c} \text{Probability of} \\ \text{viral adsorption} \\ \text{to host} \\ \text{before decay} \end{array} \right) \left( \begin{array}{c} \text{Probability} \\ \text{of lysis} \\ \text{before} \\ \text{washout} \end{array} \right)$$

is greater than 1

# Population dynamics of lytic viruses

Population perspective

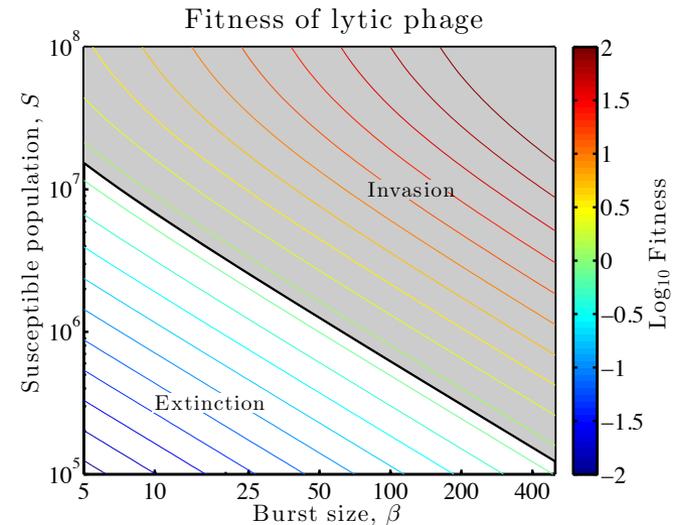


Individual perspective

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# Population dynamics of lytic viruses

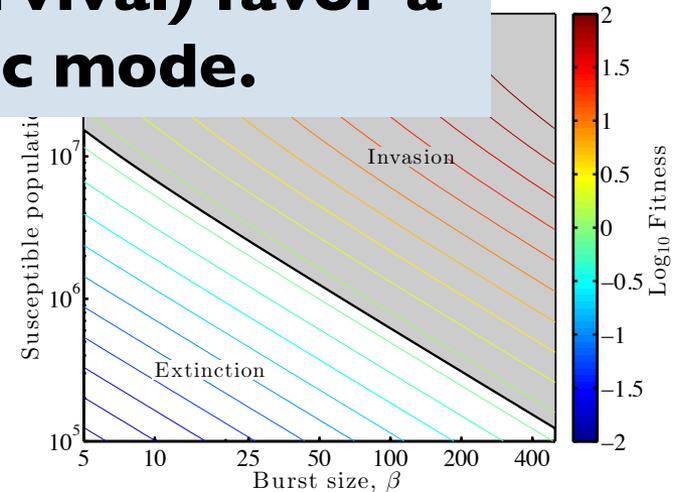
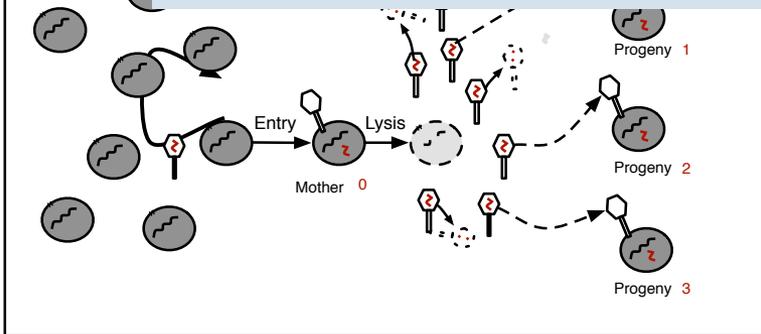
Population perspective



**Take-away**

**Ecological conditions with more susceptible cells and viral traits with more efficient infections (and extracellular virion survival) favor a lytic, antagonistic mode.**

Individual perspective



on cell death

$\widehat{dS}$

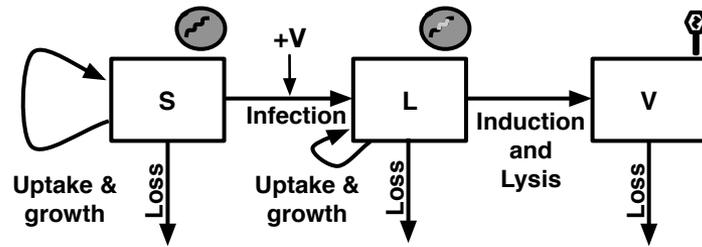
death

decay

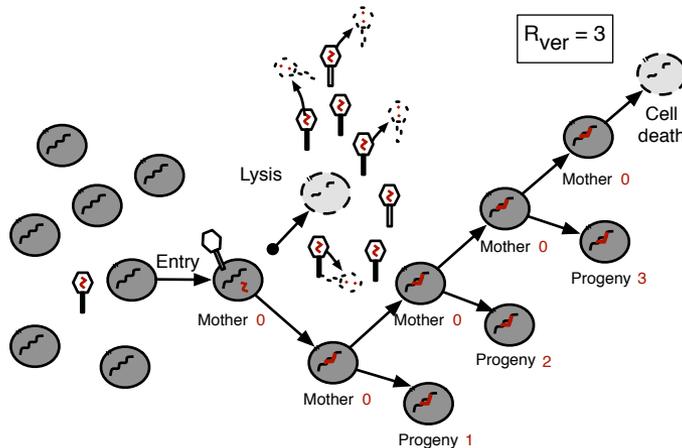
# Population dynamics of latent viruses

Population perspective

Latent viruses (e.g., phage  $\lambda$ )



Individual perspective



$$\frac{dS}{dt} = \underbrace{bS(1 - N/K)}_{\text{logistic growth}} - \underbrace{\phi SV}_{\text{infection}} - \underbrace{dS}_{\text{cell death}}$$

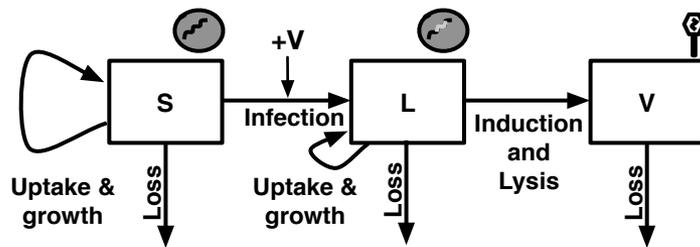
$$\frac{dL}{dt} = \underbrace{qb'L(1 - N/K)}_{\text{lysogen growth}} + \underbrace{\phi SV}_{\text{infection}} - \underbrace{p\eta L}_{\text{lysis}} - \underbrace{d'L}_{\text{cell death}}$$

$$\frac{dV}{dt} = \underbrace{\beta p\eta L}_{\text{lysis}} - \underbrace{\phi SV}_{\text{infection}} - \underbrace{mV}_{\text{viral decay}}$$

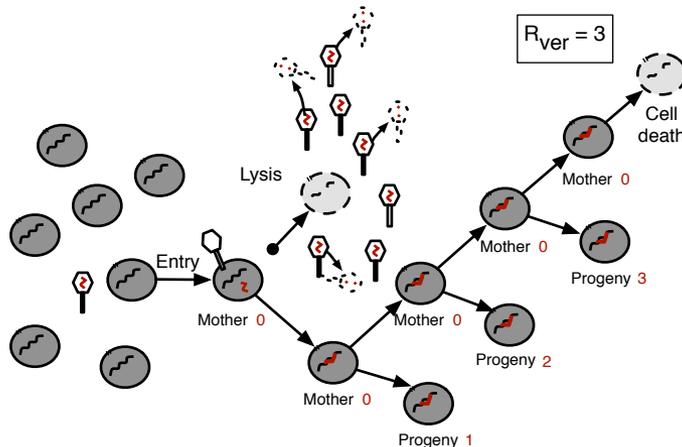
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**Viruses increase in population, within infected cells given exclusively vertical transmission when**

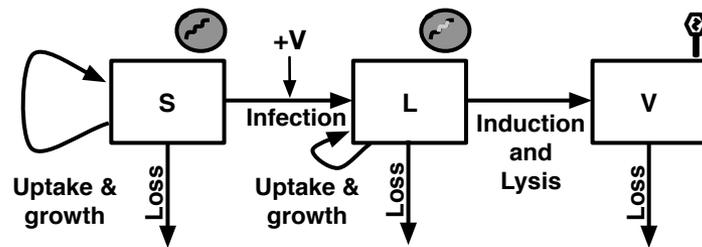
$$\mathcal{R}_{ver} = \frac{b' \left(1 - \frac{S^*}{K}\right)}{d'}$$

is greater than 1

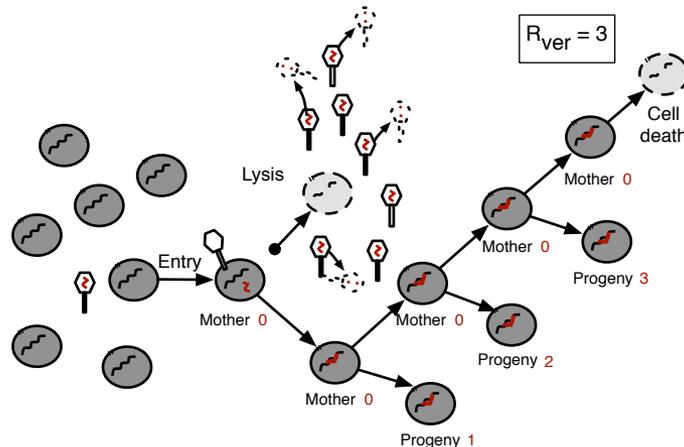
# Population dynamics of latent viruses

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Latent viruses (e.g., phage  $\lambda$ )



Individual perspective



$$\frac{dS}{dt} = \underbrace{bS(1 - N/K)}_{\text{logistic growth}} - \underbrace{\phi SV}_{\text{infection}} - \underbrace{dS}_{\text{cell death}}$$

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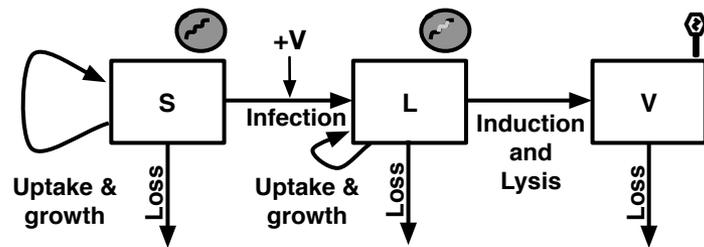
$$\mathcal{R}_{ver} = \text{Division rate} \times \text{Cell lifespan}$$

is greater than 1

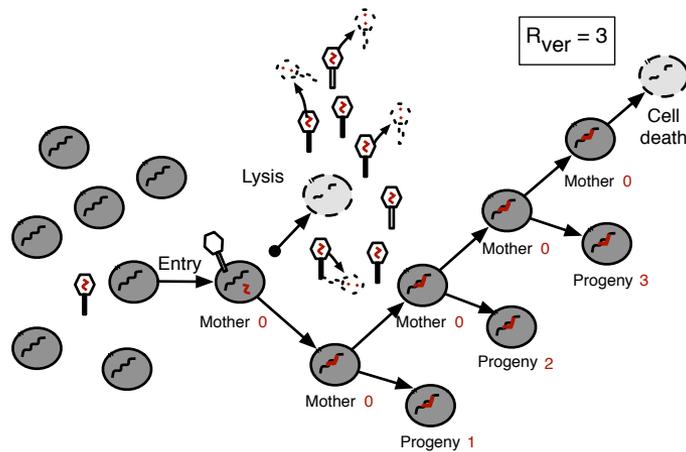
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Latent viruses (e.g., phage  $\lambda$ )



Individual perspective

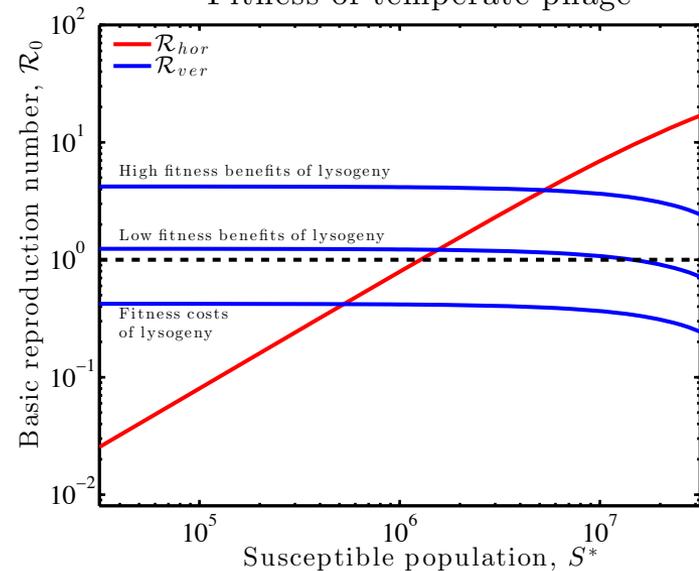


$$\frac{dS}{dt} = \overbrace{bS(1 - N/K)}^{\text{logistic growth}} - \overbrace{\phi SV}^{\text{infection}} - \overbrace{dS}^{\text{cell death}}$$

$$\frac{dL}{dt} = \overbrace{qb'L(1 - N/K)}^{\text{lysogen growth}} + \overbrace{\phi SV}^{\text{infection}} - \overbrace{p\eta L}^{\text{lysis}} - \overbrace{d'L}^{\text{cell death}}$$

$$\frac{dV}{dt} = \overbrace{\beta p\eta L}^{\text{lysis}} - \overbrace{\phi SV}^{\text{infection}} - \overbrace{mV}^{\text{viral decay}}$$

Fitness of temperate phage



# Population dynamics of latent viruses

Population perspective

Uptake & growth

La

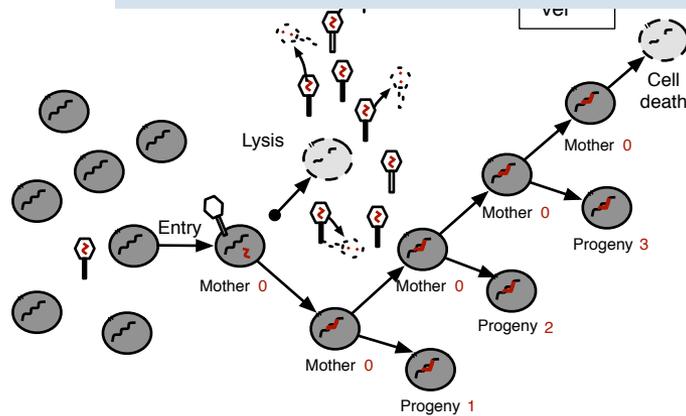
## Take-away

**Ecological conditions with reduced niche competition, direct cell benefits, or low virion survivorship favor latent strategies.**

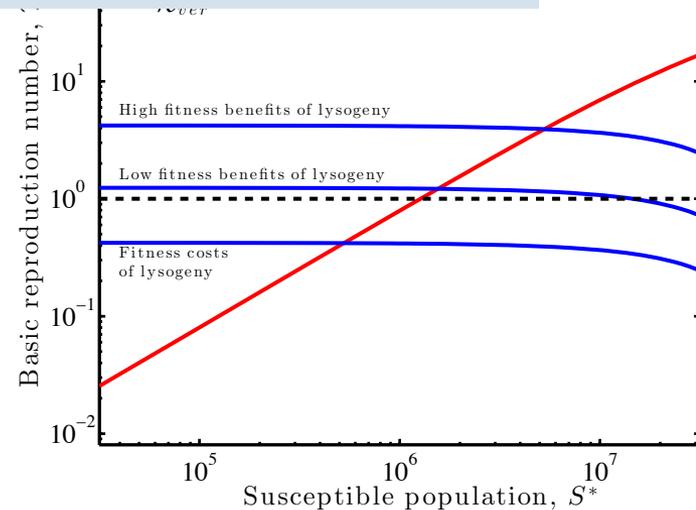
cell death  
 $dS$

lysis cell death  
 $p\eta L - d'L$

Individual perspective



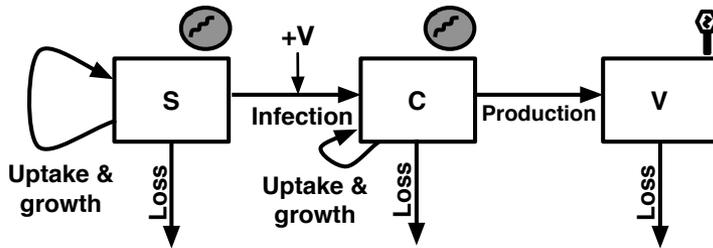
phage



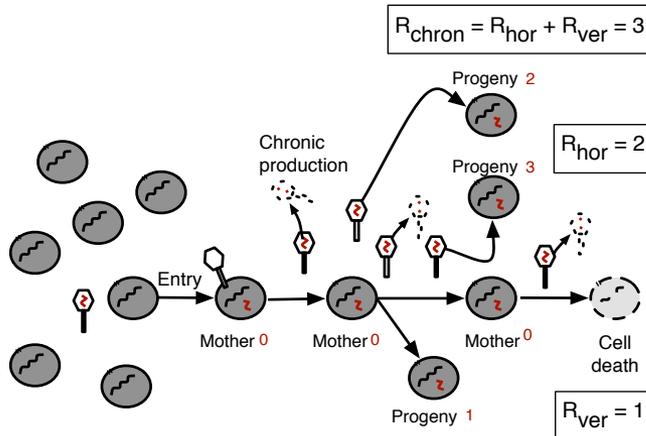
# Population dynamics of chronic viruses

Population perspective

Chronic viruses (e.g., filamentous M13)



Individual perspective



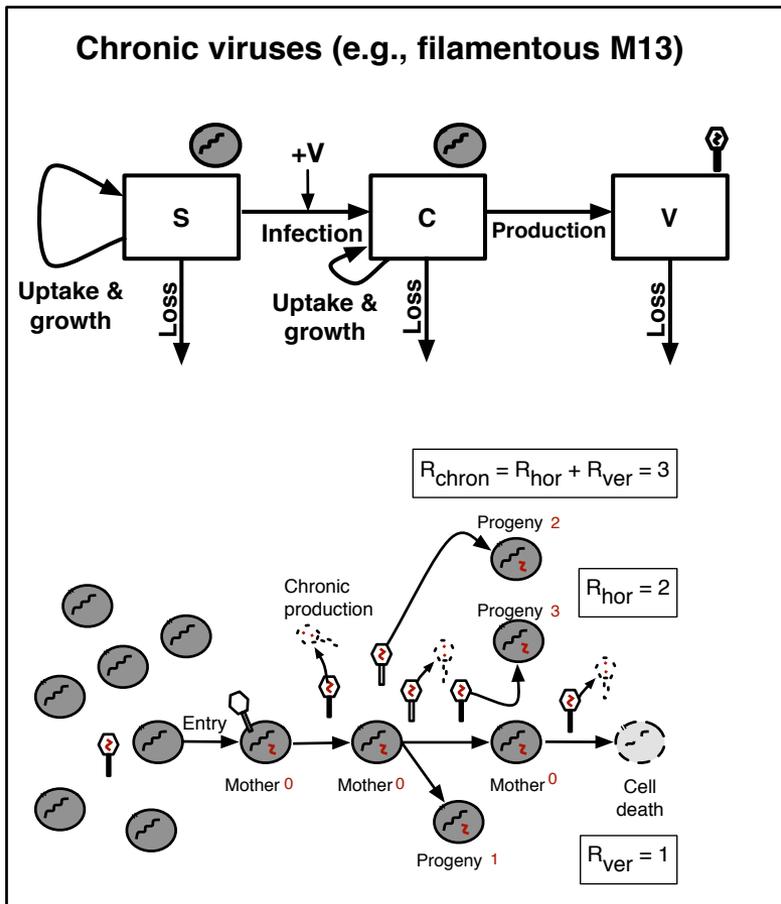
$$\frac{dS}{dt} = \underbrace{bS(1 - N/K)}_{\text{logistic growth}} - \underbrace{\phi SV}_{\text{infection}} - \underbrace{dS}_{\text{cell death}}$$

$$\frac{dI}{dt} = \underbrace{b'I(1 - N/K)}_{\text{logistic growth}} + \underbrace{\phi SV}_{\text{infection}} - \underbrace{d'I}_{\text{cell death}}$$

$$\frac{dV}{dt} = \underbrace{\alpha I}_{\text{virion production}} - \underbrace{\phi SV}_{\text{infection}} - \underbrace{mV}_{\text{viral decay}}$$

# Population dynamics of chronic viruses

Population perspective



Individual perspective

$$\frac{dS}{dt} = \underbrace{bS(1 - N/K)}_{\text{logistic growth}} - \underbrace{\phi SV}_{\text{infection}} - \underbrace{dS}_{\text{cell death}}$$

$$\frac{dI}{dt} = \underbrace{b'I(1 - N/K)}_{\text{logistic growth}} + \underbrace{\phi SV}_{\text{infection}} - \underbrace{d'I}_{\text{cell death}}$$

$$\frac{dV}{dt} = \underbrace{\alpha I}_{\text{virion production}} - \underbrace{\phi SV}_{\text{infection}} - \underbrace{mV}_{\text{viral decay}}$$

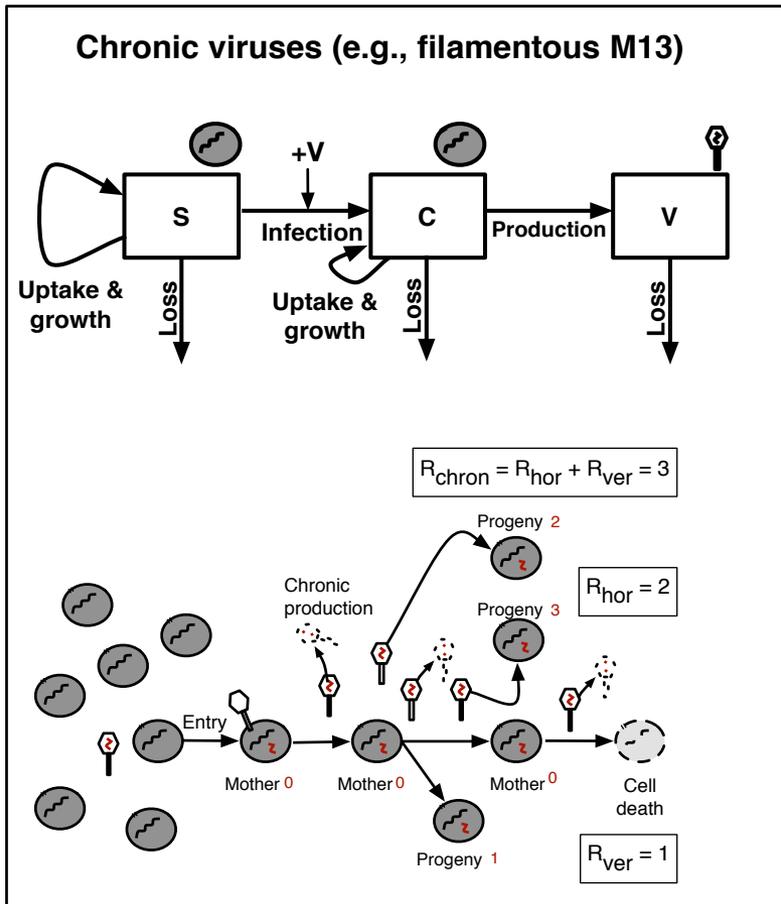
**Viruses increase in population, within infected cells given mixed transmission when**

$$\mathcal{R}_{chron} \equiv \underbrace{\frac{\alpha}{d'} \left( \frac{\phi S^*}{\phi S^* + m} \right)}_{\text{horizontal}} + \underbrace{\frac{b'(1 - S^*/K)}{d'}}_{\text{vertical}}$$

is greater than 1

# Population dynamics of chronic viruses

Population perspective

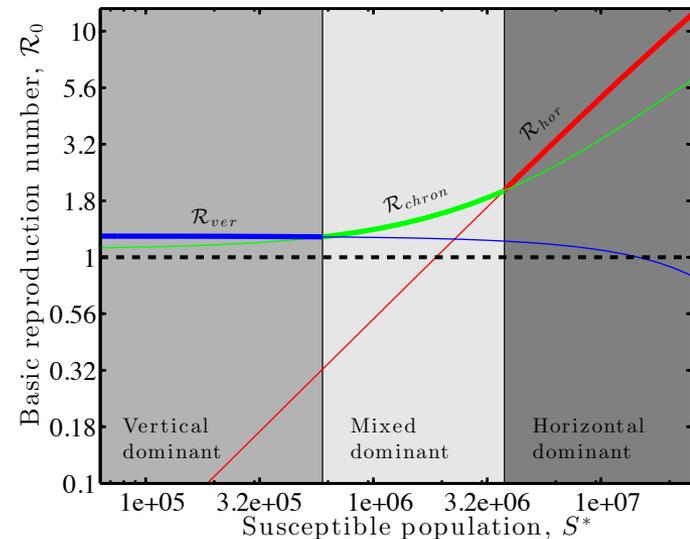


Individual perspective

$$\frac{dS}{dt} = \underbrace{bS(1 - N/K)}_{\text{logistic growth}} - \underbrace{\phi SV}_{\text{infection}} - \underbrace{dS}_{\text{cell death}}$$

$$\frac{dI}{dt} = \underbrace{b'I(1 - N/K)}_{\text{logistic growth}} + \underbrace{\phi SV}_{\text{infection}} - \underbrace{d'I}_{\text{cell death}}$$

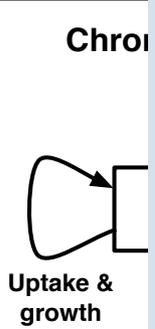
$$\frac{dV}{dt} = \underbrace{\alpha I}_{\text{virion production}} - \underbrace{\phi SV}_{\text{infection}} - \underbrace{mV}_{\text{viral decay}}$$



Weitz et al. "Viral fitness across a continuum from lysis to latency". Virus Evolution, 2019

# Population dynamics of chronic viruses

Population perspective



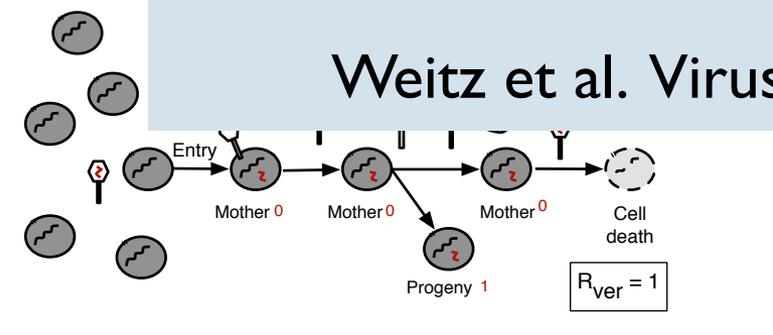
## Take-away

Temperate/chronic modes are favored when 'susceptible' populations are relatively low & lysogens have relative growth advantage or extracellular decay rates are high for virions.

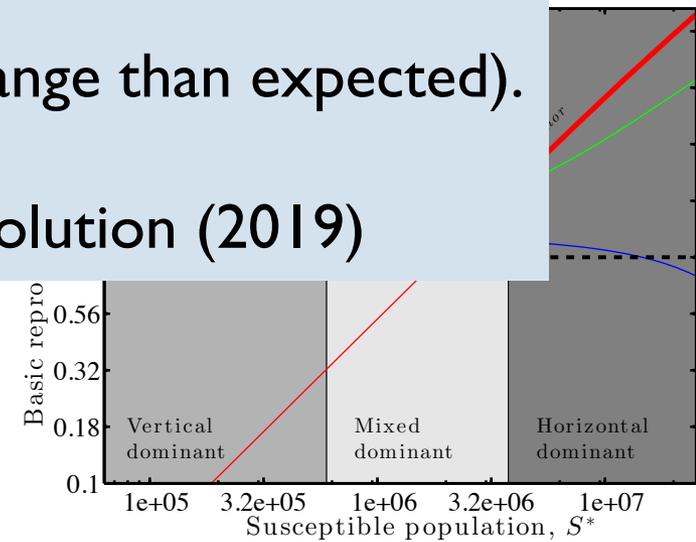
(potentially a far greater range than expected).

- cell death  $\underbrace{\hspace{1cm}}_{dS}$
- cell death  $\underbrace{\hspace{1cm}}_{d'I}$
- viral decay  $\underbrace{\hspace{1cm}}_{mV}$

Individual perspective



Weitz et al. Virus Evolution (2019)



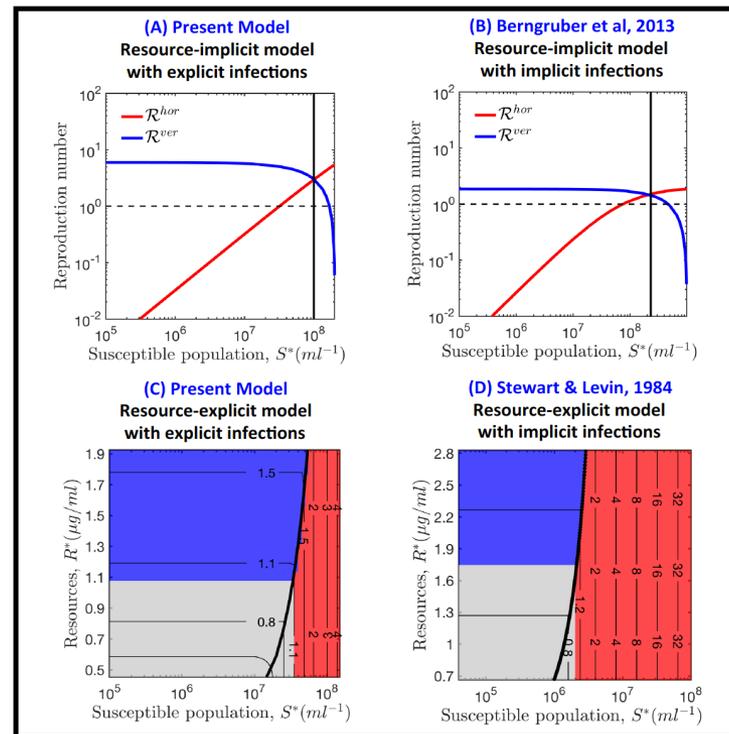
Weitz et al. "Viral fitness across a continuum from lysis to latency". Virus Evolution, 2019

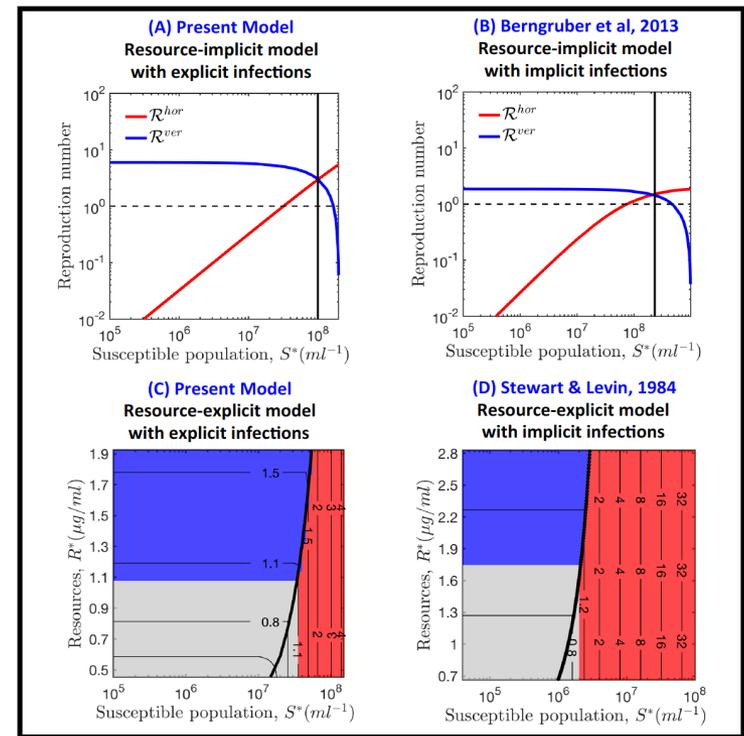
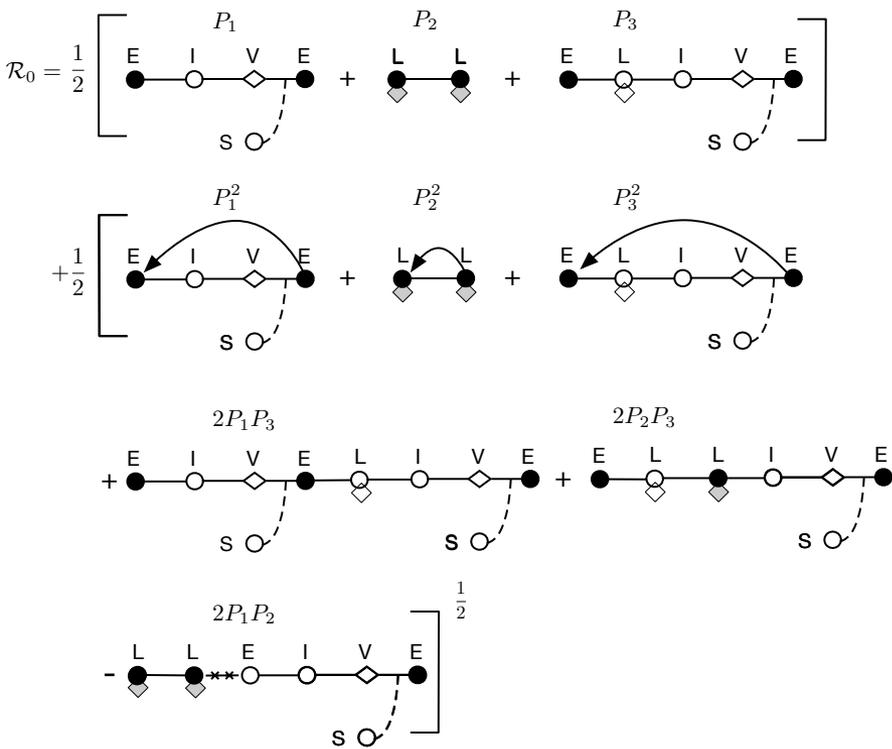
What environmental conditions should favor lysogeny rather than lysis?

Answering this question requires a unified metric, e.g.,:

$\mathcal{R}_0$ : *the average number of new infected cells produced by a single (typical) infected cell and its progeny virions in an otherwise susceptible population.*

$$\mathcal{R}_0 = \frac{1}{2} \left[ \begin{array}{c} P_1 \\ P_2 \\ P_3 \end{array} \right] + \frac{1}{2} \left[ \begin{array}{c} P_1^2 \\ P_2^2 \\ P_3^2 \end{array} \right] + 2P_1P_3 + 2P_2P_3 - \frac{1}{2} \left[ \begin{array}{c} 2P_1P_2 \end{array} \right]$$



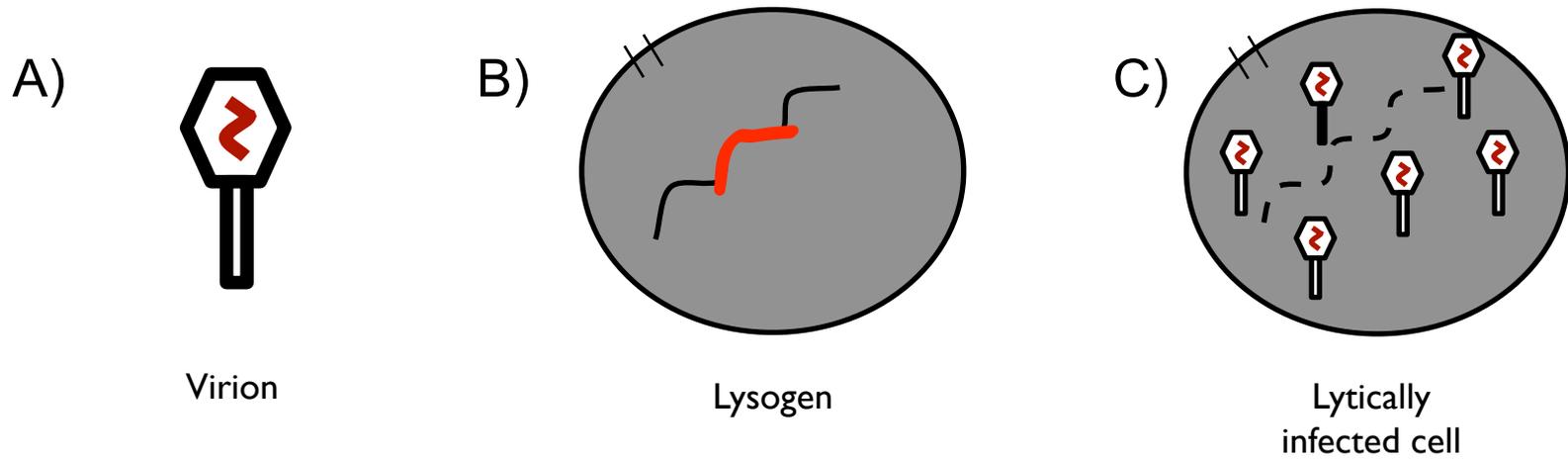


## Take-away

Loop-based approach decomposes viral fitness into lytic, lysogenic, and lyso-lytic loops, transcends model details & reveals generic mechanisms for the benefits of latency.

Li, Cortez & Weitz, biorxiv: 709758

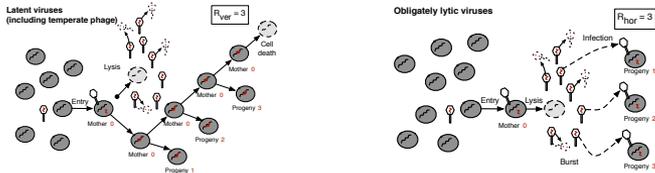
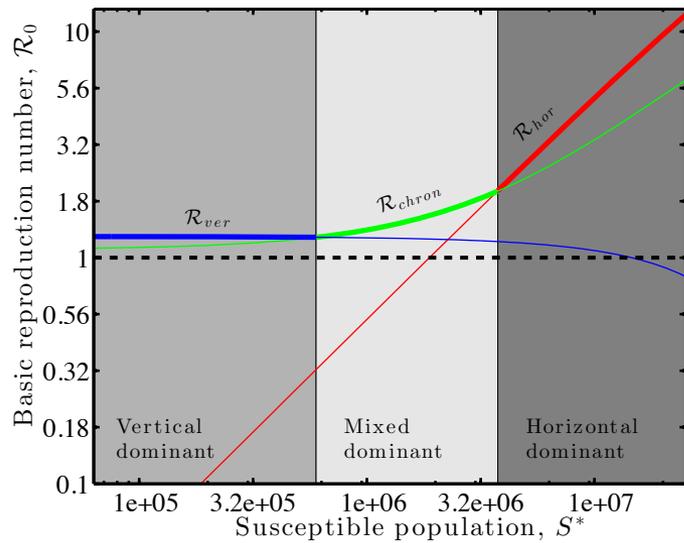
# Q: What is a Virus?



D: All of the above.

Viral fitness in the environment depends on measuring the present and long-term value of infection across the entire viral life cycle, whether inside or outside hosts.

A new challenge for **theory, experiments, and field-work.**



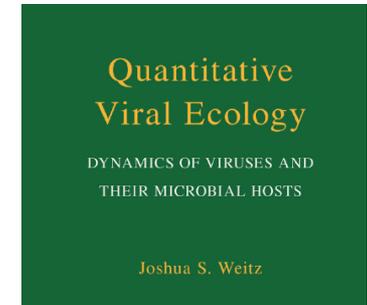
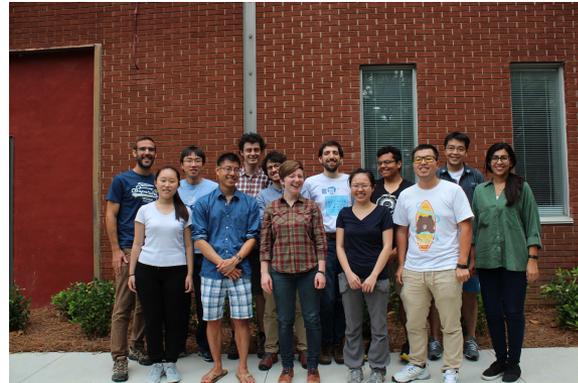
## Acknowledgements

GT: Chad Wigington, Stephen Beckett, Guanlin Li, Hend Alrasheed, Rong Jin  
 Florida State: Michael Cortez  
 MSU: Mark Young  
 UIUC: Rachel Whitaker  
 UL-Lafayette: Hayriye Gulbudak

**Thank you!**

## More details:

Re-examination of the relationship between marine virus and microbial cell abundances. Wigington et al., Nat. Micro 2016  
 Lysis, lysogeny, and virus-microbe ratios, Weitz et al. Nature 2017  
 Heterogeneous viral strategies promote coexistence in virus-microbe systems, Gulbudak & Weitz, J.Theor. Biol. 2019;  
 Alrasheed, Jin, & Weitz, Caution in inferring viral strategies from abundance correlations in marine metagenomes. Nat. Comm., 2019  
 Viral invasion fitness across a continuum from lysis to latency, Weitz, Li, Gulbudak, Cortez, and Whitaker., Virus Evolution 2019  
 Why be temperate: a synthesis, Li, Cortez & Weitz, biorxiv & in review  
<https://doi.org/10.1101/709758>



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